

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY/TOWN OF GOSHEN WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 2

1500 Hours June 20, 2007

New information is in bold italics.

SUMMARY

The Town of Goshen water system was shut down on 14 June due to a leak that occurred on 13 June. A local emergency was declared at 1100 hours, 14 June. Actions are being coordinated to identify leaks in the system and alleviate the adverse conditions

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations and augmented with limited staff.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Rockbridge County declared a local emergency on 14 June 2007

External Affairs: Coordinating Public Affairs support to Rockbridge County and Town of Goshen with Virginia Department of Health.

WEATHER FORECAST

Rockbridge County: Wednesday Night, 20 June: Mostly clear with a low of 56 degrees. Northwest winds at 5 to 10 mph. Thursday, 21 June: Sunny with a high of 87 degrees. Northwest winds at 5 to 10 mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Coordinating conference calls with locality and impacted state agencies. Producing and distributing State Situation Report. Monitoring Situation Reports submitted by VA Department of Health and Rockbridge County. ***VDEM Mobile Command Unit and 2 support vehicles including a Communication Interoperability Officer, Operations Officer, Maintenance Officer, and 2 Communications Officers deployed 20 June to support coordination and communications. On-scene VDEM Personnel are working 12 hour shifts, 24x7.***

LOCAL LIAISON: VDEM Local Support Services Region Six Coordinator is on scene providing assistance.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: VA Department of Health (VDH)

VDH Office of Drinking Water staff has been on scene since 14 June assisting in identifying leaks. Boil Water Advisory was issued on 15 June and will remain in effect until further notice. VDH Office of Drinking Water staff is monitoring town's emergency water supply needs. ***VDH Office of Drinking Water has mobilized for rapid water sample collection and arranged for laboratory testing of water samples, in anticipation that the Town's water delivery problems will be corrected. This will expedite use of the system by residents as soon as possible following lifting of the Boil Water Advisory. The VDH Southwest Public Information Officer is on scene assisting in the preparation of public information.***

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HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 6 – Mass Care, Housing and Human Services: American Red Cross

Blue Ridge Chapter has accepted a request from Rockbridge County Emergency Manager to feed personnel involved in water system repairs and assisting with distribution.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support: VA Department of Emergency Management

Facilitating information for potable water tankers and bottled water sources. ***Rockbridge County Emergency Management requested additional communications support from the State so that the operation would not tie up the EMS channels in the county. Communication equipment arrived in the Town of Goshen at approx. 2000 hours. The equipment included a repeater and 6 handheld units to assist with the operations. An additional 10 land lines, fax capability and interoperability radios were deployed 20 June.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Water levels in the storage tanks did not recover as expected after the water main break was repaired on 14 June and residents reported low water pressure and some reported no water on 15 June. It is suspected that water continues to be lost due to additional leaks within the system. Staff from the VA Rural Water Association is on site with leak detection equipment assisting local officials attempting to locate additional water main leaks. ***The water system is still out and approximately 90-95% of the water customers are off-line. The Town can not completely shut the system down, and is unable to find all connections for individual customers. Crews worked throughout the day and evening to repair additional leaks and install additional shut offs so that the system can be isolated and zoned off to enhance the testing and detection process for leaks. Additional crews came in from the Town of Craigsville to assist with repair operations, supplying both personnel and equipment.***

The Mayor of Goshen continues to serve as the Incident Commander and County Emergency Management and State officials are providing support as needed. The operation (Command Post) is being managed from the Town Hall in Goshen.

Rockbridge County Emergency Management contracted with Wal-Mart to provide bottled water for the Town of Goshen. The town is distributing bottled water to residents and the VA Department of Corrections, Craigsville Correctional Facility, is providing a 7000 gallon tanker to supplement the 3000 gallon tanker provided by a local contractor to provide potable water for citizens. ***Drinking water and non-potable water is being distributed at the Town Hall to walkup local residents in gallon containers. There are about 1000 gallons left from the first delivery received last Friday. The additional truck load (4032 gallons) arrived at 1000 hours 20 June and is staged at the Town Hall. There are 2 trailers with non-potable water being distributed at the Town Hall to walkups. The 3000 gallon trailer has some water left in it and the 7000 gallon trailer has not yet been used. Residents are filling up gallon jugs from this source for washing and bathing. Fire and EMS personnel are distributing water to those residents that are house bound and cannot get to the Town Hall.***

To ensure adequate fire protection is in place, fire departments in adjacent communities have been placed on stand-by. A local Boy Scout Camp in the Goshen area has opened its facilities to area residents without water for showering and bathing through Friday, 22 June.

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